

REMARKS

Claims 2-4 and 6-19 are pending in this patent application. By this amendment, claims 1, 5 and 20 are cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer, and claims 3 and 7 are redrafted into independent form. Therefore, claims 2 and 4 have been amended to depend from claim 3, and claims 6, 9, 13-14 and 16-18 have been amended to depend from claim 7. Additionally, Applicants have amended claim 18. Applicants have also amended certain paragraphs of the specification for grammar and readability. No new matter has been added. Reconsideration and allowance of this patent application in view of the above amendments and the following remarks is respectfully requested.

Entry of the Amendment is proper under 37 C.F.R. § 1.116 since the Amendment:

- (a) places the application in better condition for allowance for the reasons discussed herein;
- (b) does not raise new issues requiring further search and/or consideration by the Examiner;
- (c) does not present any additional claims without canceling a corresponding number of finally rejected claims; (d) places the application in better form for an appeal, should an appeal be necessary; and (e) responds to formal matters set forth by the Examiner. Accordingly, entry of the Amendment is respectfully requested.

Allowed Claims

Applicants appreciate the indication that claims 3 and 7-8 contain allowable subject matter. Applicants have redrafted claims 3 and 7 into independent form, including all of the limitations of the base claims from which they previously depended. All claims should now be in immediate condition for allowance.

Objection to Claims

Claim 18 was objected to as allegedly being informal because it recited a nursing bottle, whereas the Examiner asserted that “the actual bottle is not positively recited in claim 5.” (Claim 18 has been amended to depend from claim 7, which includes the features previously recited in claim 5.) In response to the objection, Applicants have amended claim 18 to recite that the brush “is sized and adapted for a nursing bottle.” Applicants believe that the amendment renders the objection moot, and respectfully request that it be withdrawn.

35 U.S.C. § 102 Rejections

Claims 1, 2, 5, 6, 9-13 and 18-20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by Berg, U.S. Patent No. 982,566. Additionally, claims 5, 6, 9-10, 13-15 and 18-19 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by Benson, U.S. Patent No. 4,317,249, and claims 5, 6, 9-10, 13 and 18-19 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by Piron, U.S. Patent No. 2,265,192. Finally, claims 5, 6, 9-10, 13 and 19 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by McPherson, U.S. Patent No. 444,710. Applicants respectfully submit that the rejections are moot with respect to cancelled claims 1, 5 and 20. Furthermore, Applicants note that the remaining claims have been amended to depend from allowable claims 3 and 7, and, therefore, respectfully submit that the remaining claims are allowable for at least the same reasons as claims 3 and 7. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the rejections be withdrawn.

35 U.S.C. § 103 Rejections

Claims 4 and 17 were rejected as allegedly being unpatentable over Berg in view of Kweon, U.S. Patent No. 6,067,684, over Benson in view of Kweon, over Piron in view Kweon or over McPherson in view of Kweon. Additionally, claim 16 was rejected under 35 U.S.C.

§ 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Benson. Applicants respectfully submit that claim 4 has been amended to depend from claim 3, which was indicated to be allowable, and claims 16 and 17 have been amended to depend from claim 7, which was indicated to be allowable.

Accordingly, Applicants submit that claims 4, 16 and 17 are allowable over the cited references for at least the same reasons as claims 3 and 7, and respectfully request that the rejections be withdrawn.

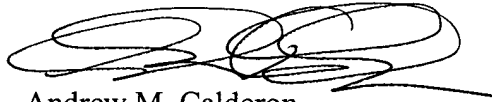
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CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully submit that all of the remaining claims are allowable over the cited references, and that the application is in condition for allowance. The Examiner is respectfully requested to pass this application to issue. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below, if needed. Applicants hereby make a written conditional petition for extension of time, if required. Please charge any deficiencies in fees and credit any overpayment of fees to Attorney's Deposit Account No. 23-1951.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Andrew M. Calderon', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

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